

Report by the IRF Secretary General for the year 2011

Dear All,

The following is a short recap of the IRF and its activities during 2011. It was truly a great Year for the IRF and the sport and I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you for your commitment and dedication towards the future of the IRF and the sport of Racquetball.

- 1 The IRF continued to be a Recognized Sport under the International Olympic Committee. Recognized Sports are those Sports that the IOC considers for inclusion in future Olympic Programs.
- 2 President Keith Calkins and Secretary General Luke St Onge attended SportAccord (Previously named GAISF) in London with the IOC and 125 International Sports Federations. Major focus was on ARISF's legislation, WADA, World Games SportAccord legislation, and the IOC Olympic Program.
- 3 PARC conducted a very successful Pan American Games Qualifying Championships in Managua, Nicaragua. PASO was notified of those countries qualifying and for the first time all of the National Olympic Committees who qualified agreed to send their athletes.
- 4 The WSRDoubles were conducted at the Pojoaque Pueblo-Recognized as a Independent country under the USA Laws- North of Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA. 13 countries competed. It was an excellent event. The 2012 WSRD will be held this coming June in San Pedro Sula, Honduras and 2013 will be in Cochabamba, Bolivia.
- 5 The ARF held its Asian Racquetball Championships in Seoul. Korea.
- 6 The IRF Junior Worlds were held in Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic with 17 countries competing and 250 athletes. The Juniors was hosted by the Dominican Republic Racquetball Federation under the direction of Rafael Fernandez. Streaming was held on 4 courts for 5 days. It was truly a great event with Mexico defending its World Title.
- 7 The IRF awarded a grant to the Racquetball Association of Ireland to help its Juniors attend the Junior World Championships.
- 8 The Pan American Games were held in October in Guadalajara, Mexico. The Pan Ams featured 5500 athletes and is second only to the Olympics as a Multi-International Sports Event. Racquetball was included as a full medal sport for the fourth time and it was treated by the Organizing Committee as a Olympic Sport. Under the Direction of PARC President Osvaldo Maggi the organization of the racquetball competition was second to none. Mexico captured the Team Gold in both men and women's and also won 3 of the gold medals in the individual events with the USA winning one gold. We fully expect that racquetball will be included as a full medal sport in the 2015 Pan Ams which will be held in Toronto Canada.
- 9 The IRF signed a 5 year sponsorship agreement with E-Force. The sponsorship emphasized support for the development of Racquetball Worldwide especially focusing on supplying equipment for Junior Development. To date 13 IRF member countries have taken advantage of the Equipment Developmental Grant.

- 10 The IRF made a special effort to make sure that it was in compliance with the World Anti-Doping Agency with both in competition and out of competition compliance. The IRF received compliance in October with 5 out of competition tests and 12 in competition tests. All proved negative.
- 11 The IRF awarded the 2012 Elite World Championships to Santa Cruz, Bolivia with Santo Domingo as a backup venue.
- 12 The IRF awarded the 2012 IRF Junior World Championships to Los Angeles, California-USA
- 13 The IRF established the IRF Hall of Fame and the first inductees voted in are—

Athletes-

Sherman Greenfeld-Cn, Cindy Baxter-USA, Michelle Gould-USA, Heater Stupp-Cn, Egan Inoue-USA.

Contributor

Gary Mazaroff-USA.

The first Hall of Fame Induction ceremony will take place in conjunction with the Junior Worlds in Los Angeles, USA. 2012

- 14 The Asian Open Racquetball Championships were held in December in Seoul, Korea
- 15 The World Senior Racquetball Championships were once again held in Albuquerque New Mexico-USA for the direct benefit of the development of international junior racquetball through the IRF. The WSRC have been held each year since 1984.
- 16 Awarded the Sportsmanship Junior Award at the Juniors in Santa Domingo to Joe Dillon-Ireland and Maria Munoz- Ecuador

Respectfully submitted,

Luke St Onge

Sec General-IRF